

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method, article of manufacture, and apparatus for restricting the receipt of automatic delegate reply messages. Specifically, the method configures a control message for an electronic mail (e-mail) message addressed to at least one recipient terminal or computer, and sends the e-mail and control messages to the at least one recipient terminal. Upon processing the control message, the at least one recipient terminal determines whether to reply to the received e-mail message with a delegate reply message. As such, a sender of the e-mail message may restrict the receipt of delegate reply messages by configuring the control message through different features or options.